

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/056 W

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R 021010Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4071

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI POLITICAL MATURITY?

1. THROUGHOUT SESSIONS FOUNDED CONGRESS SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIS
T

PARTY (SRSP) AND FIRST HALF JULY, PARTY LEADERS PROCLAIMED
DAILY IN PRESS AND RADIO THAT POLITICAL MATURITY SOMALIS'
FACILITATED FORMATION SRSP. SECOND HALF JULY, HOWEVER, DEVOTED
LARGELY TO EXTENDED REGIONAL, DISTRICT, AND VILLAGE VISITS BY
POLITBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPLAINING TO SOMALIS HOW
AND WHY PARTY FORMED, ITS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, AND PARTY GOALS.

2. COMMENT: POLITICAL DUST FOLLOWING SRSP FORMATION HEAVY AND STILL
UNSETTLED. MEANWHILE MORE OBJECTIVE LONG-TIME EXPATRIATE RESIDENTS,
ARAB EMBASSY OBSERVERS AND A FEW RELIABLE LOCAL EMPLOYEES TEND AGREE
THAT SIAD'S POLULARITY WITH SRSP PEOPLE IS LOW AND DECLINING, GSDR'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS SPUTTERING ALONG AND STILL REQUIRES LARGE
CASH IN-FLOWS, AND SOMALIS RATHER THAN DEMONSTRATING POLITICAL
MATURITY ARE BORED WITH SRSP PROPAGANDA AND MORE CONCERNED WITH
RISING COST OF LIVING. A SOMEWHAT APOCRYPHAL STORY MAKING ROUNDS
RELATES HOW SIAD RECENTLY VISITED TRANSIENT NOMAD CAMP
ON OUTSKIRTS MOGADISCIO LATE AT NIGHT AND ASKED IF ANYONE
COULD TELL HIM ABOUT SRPSP. FOLLOWING NEGATIVE REPLY HE
ASKED IF ANYONE KNEW HIM. NO ONE WAS ABLE IDENTIFY THE PRESIDENT.
LOUGHRAN

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